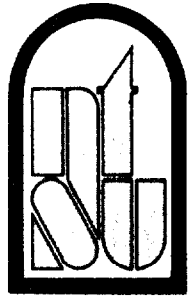
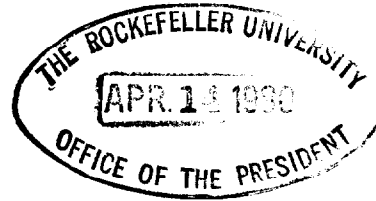


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April 8, 1980

Dr. Eugene Garfield, President  
Institute for Scientific Information  
3501 Market Street  
University City Science Center  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

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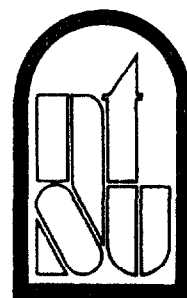
Dear Dr. Garfield,

I read with interest your essay on 'Has Scientific communication changed in 300 years?' CC Life Sciences, February 25, 1980; and earlier I had a chance to read Dr. Joshua Lederberg's paper 'Digital communications and the conduct of Science: the new literacy,' proc. IEEE 66: 1314-19, 1978.

You probably remember that I had corresponded with you in the mid-seventies, while I was on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University, about the computerized human chromosome data banks that we had established in 1974-75.

The first data bank, Chromosomal Variation in Man-A Catalog of Chromosomal Variants and Anomalies has seen three editions in a span of five years - May, 1975; December, 1977; and Spring 1980.

The second data bank-Repository of Chromosomal Variants and Anomalies in Man-, essentially an International Registry of Abnormal Karyotypes has had six Listings until now and the Seventh Listing will contain data from 150 contributors in 35 countries (and 30 States in the U.S.) on 250,000 individuals. The data on abnormal karyotypes, from different contributors, are on electronic disks and are 'easily accessible' in theory to others who want to use them. Presently, the requests are channeled through us, rather needlessly, I must add!



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I believe that the communication in this area of human cytogenetics has the capability to change and has changed somewhat along the lines of Lederberg's prediction. The amount of money and effort saved is substantial when compared to writing a formal case report of abnormal karyotypes. Many workers in the field have taken advantage of reporting their cases to the Repository. Hope more of them will follow suit!

Sincerely,

*Digamber S. Borgaonkar*

↓  
Digamber S. Borgaonkar, Ph.D.  
Professor

DSB/ka

xc to Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President  
The Rockefeller University  
New York, N.Y. 10021